



Betico Croes School Olympics 2007 begin

Saturday, May 5th witnessed the opening of the sixth annual Betico Croes School Olympics at the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium in Dakota. This year, fifty-two schools with students ranging in ages from six years old to twenty are participating in two weeks of eleven sports disciplines with the purpose of propagating teamwork, sportsmanship, and physical fitness. Generous support by the Caribbean Mercantile Bank is providing a great deal of the sports equipment needed for the varying competitions.

After the traditional lighting of the Olympic torch was done by Mikel Rasmijn and Jorella Croes, a pageant of colorful costumes and flags marched around the stadium presenting the school colors to island dignitaries and parents.. The official opening ceremonies included an address by the Minister of Labor, Culture and Sport, Ramon Lee, and the President of the Parliament, Senora Mervyn Wyatt-Ras.

100 students presented a show dedicated to the principle of "Discipline and its benefit to youth" under the direction of Marisol Rodriguez-Peña. The theme of the show was the importance of sports in combating youthful obesity and drug experimentation.

During the week days, competitions will take place every day from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at various sport fields around the island, and on Saturday, May 12th a full day of activities will commence at 9:30 AM at the Frans Figaroa Stadium in Noord. Swimming competitions will also take place that day at the Roly Bisslik Olympic Pool in Saveneta. Final events will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19. This will include the final handball match at the Joe Laveist Ballpark in San Nicolas, Softball finals at the field located at the Centro di Barrio in Noord, and Soccer finals for groups C/D at the Frans Figaroa stadium. The final soccer match and closing ceremonies with awards presentation will be at the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium on Saturday, May 19 at 5:00 PM.

Minister Lee noted that each year the Betico Croes School Olympics is receiving increased support from the commercial sector, enabling participants to acquire school uniforms and banners. The ministry extended their gratitude and presented plaques to Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V., Andina Ice, Tropical Bottling Co., Quik Electrical Services N.V., Arugas N.V., Aruba's Fire Department and SETAR, N.V. for their support of this important event.